NEW-YORK. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1872.

GROWTH OF THE UNDULATORY THEORY-

LIGHT ANALOGOUS TO SOUND AND COLOR TO

PITCH-A SERIES OF LUCID EXPERIMENTS.

Vol. XXXII No. 9.895.

THE HOLIDAYS.

WASHINGTON. THE CREDIT MOBILIER INVESTIGATION. JOHN B. ALLEY CROSS-EXAMINES M'COMB AND SERIOUSLY WEAKENS THE LATTER'S EVI-DENCE-OPEN SESSION PROBABLE AFTER

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—The session of the Crédit Mobilier Committee, to-day, was entirely taken up with an inquiry into the case of James Brooks. Col. McComb was again put on the stand, and John B. Alley was allowed to cross-question him at length on his previous testimony. He succeeded in making him contradict himself about the date of the alleged transaction with Brooks. In his first statement McComb placed it in the Fall of 1869, and to-day he said it was in January or February, 1868. He finally admitted that he could set remember the date. The cross-examination by Alley is understood to have somewhat shaken the faith of the Committee in the correctness of McComb's testimony. The examination of Alley was begun but was not finished. He stated positively that he was not present at any interview with Brooks when any proposition was made to him to take shares of Crédit Mobilier stock, and that he had no knowledge of any such interview of transaction. This statement is in direct conflict with to the circumstances of such an interview, and declared after the recess before Alley had fairly entered upon his explanation of the affairs of the Credit Mobilier. When they reassemble they will hear the rest of his statement, and will examine all the members to whom Oakes Ames avoid sending for the books of the company and tooking into its transactions pretty thoroughly. They will not se able to continue to sit with closed doors much longer if the present temper of the House continues. On the first Monday after the recess a resolution will be offered, on a motion to suspend the rules, which will then be in order, compelling them to hold their meetings in public and to print the evidence already taken.

INSURANCE COMPANIES' CLAIMS. THE FRENCH SPOLIATIONS BILL-DIVISION OF THE GENEVA AWARD.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- A new and most important question has arisen in the Senate debate on the French Spoliations bill, first suggested by Senator Sherman in his able speech on Tuesday. It seems that at the time the captures of American vessels on which these was insured in American companies, and these companies or their representatives are now the principal claimants. Morton says that they hold three-fourths of the claims. These companies charged special war rates for insuring the property, and, it is alleged, in spite of the losses, realized handsome profits. Shall they now a part of the losses they sustained! e question debated in the Senate to-day. Immediately after the morning hour Windom, who has charge of the Indian Appropriation bill, moved to postpone the French Spoliations bill in order that the former might be disposed of. On this motion the merits of the bill or anything else might be debated, and Morton caused to be read for information an amendment which he desired to offer to the French Spoliations bill to war premiums from claiming any part of the money ap-propriated, holding that the rights of the owners ted to them. Senators who opposed this amendment did so on the ground that it was a part of every property and the payment of the insurance, rights of the owner for the recovery of ages from others reverted to the insurer. In short, they pleaded the principle of subrogation. These who sustained the amendment argued that this iple or doctrine did not extend to any claim upon Government of the United States, since the owners States. Beside all this, they showed that it would be very unjust to tax the people to pay three or four milare to be divided among insurance companies Thic grew rich by the very transactions in which the sses claimed took place. This new consideration seems to have weakened the bill, for when a subsequent me defeated by only one majority. The third reading was then ordered, Morton's amendment admitted, and, after some further debate, the bill was postponed, and the Indian Appropriation bill taken up. The Spoliations bill will not be further considered until after the holiday recess, and its final passage, though not perhaps (greatly endaugered, is far from securing so certain as it was two

award by the Geneva Tribunal. It appears to be generally agreed that some kind of a court must be instituted to hear and determine the claims upon this fund. But wide differences of opinion will undoubtedly arise upon proposed provisions in the bill creating the court, and limiting its powers by defining with considerable stringency the classes of cases which it may entertain. At tempts will be made to rule out entirely a large number of claims, and these will of course find advocates in Congress to make a struggle in their behalf. The chief point at issue will doubtless be the claim of the insurance com-panies to participate in the award. It is understood that the companies which insured the captured vessels do not admit that the fact of their having charged war risks to indemnify themselves for by capture debars them from making a demand by capture debars them from making a demand for the full value of the vessels and their cargoes. There is said to be a difference of opinion among lawyers on this point. Another unsettled question is, "Are the owners of the captured slips and cargoes who got their insurance entitled to receive anything from the award, and if so, should it be the full amount of the loss, or only the amount of the net loss over the sum received from the underwriters and the cost of the extra war risks "Btill another question, and one of general interest to ship owners, is this: "It neither the underwriters nor the owners of the leasured vessels which were captured can recover, are not all who paid the war risks entitled to some indemnity!" The inadequacy of the fund to meet such demands upon it will unquestionably prevent any serious consideration being given to the latter question. The whole subject of the distribution of the award is now in the hands of the House Judiciary Committee, and Gen. Butler, who is a member of the Committee, has prepared a voluminous bill providing for a special tribunal of a judicial character to examine and pass upon the claims. The bill carefully defines the classes of claims which are entitled to share in the award, and it is understood excludes all insurance companies which charged war risks. Butler reported his bill last Monday, and it was ordered to be printed and recommitted. He was so anxious to keep its provisions secret that he took it to the printing office himself and got it privately printed. His object in this unusual proceeding was probably to avoid the proteste of disappointed claimants and he had fully perfected the bill and completed his report defending its provisions. This he has begun to write and will finish during the receas. for the full value of the vessels and their cargoes. There

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1872. The contest between artists for the \$20,000 colossal ciatue in bronze of Admiral Farragut, provided for at the last session of Congress, to be placed in the square in this city bearing his name, is becoming quite spirited, and to-day the time for the presentation of the models and to-day the time for the presentation of the modes was postponed for 30 days from Jan. 1. Dr. Horatio Stone has a full-sized model in clay already finished, and it is said Miss Vinuie Ream is also a contestant, with a finished model. An artist in New-York, one in Boston, and one in Florence, Italy, are also said to be competitors. The choice is to be made by the Committee of Public Buildings and Grounds of the the two Houses.

Although the House Banking and Currency Committee

sion into the charges that national banks have been en gaged in location which passed, the money market, thus affecting stocks, Fernando Wood to-day offered a resolution, which passed, directing the Committee to inquire if any combination for this purpose exists, and what legislation is necessary to stop the little practice. The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hooper, has a bill for the object already prepared.

The thousands of petitioners, representing almost every State, who have this session flooded Congress with their requests that a probibitory ligner taw for the District of Columbia and the Territories be passed, have been gratified by the favorable report of the Senate Finance Committee of what is known as the "Ohio Law" as a substitute for Mr. Pomeroy's bill. The Senator from Kansas, to whom Mr. Shernan formally torned over the matter, will probably get it off of the calcudar this sea-sion, but will have a difficult task to pass N.

The Speaker to-day appointed Mesars. Merriam, Colton the recess and investigate the embezzlement of \$185,000 occurred last Summer in the office of the Assistant Treasurer. A letter from Secretary Boutwell upon the same subject was laid before the House recompositing the

passage of a bill relieving Assistant Treasurer Hillhouse from liability on account of the theft, which was com-mitted by his clerk, James S. Johnson.

The Vlenna Exposition bill was passed as reported from the Foreign Affairs Committee. It appropriates \$100,000, to be spent at the discretion of the Secretary of State. A few leading Democrats, who are strict structionists of the Constitution, and who do not eve that the General Government ought to spend sey for such a purpose, made a vigorous but futile op-tion to the bill.

There was barely a quorum present in the House, a number of members having anticipated the heliday recess by two days. Others left for home to-night, and it is certain that there will not be enough left to do business to-morrow.

A clause in the regular Deficiency bill was inserted today, by the Appropriations Committee, limiting the of service of the Texas Frontier Commission to

The President has approved the act authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to transport in a Government vessel, free of duty, a monument, designed by Admiral Porter, to be erected in the grounds of the Naval Acad-emy in memory of the officers, seamen, and marines of the Navy who fell in defense of the Union.

> CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE QUESTION. IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1872. In reporting adversely upon the bill to allow women to vote and hold office in the Territories, Senator Edmunds, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee remarked, to-day, that whatever might be the sentiments of the members of the Committee on the abstract question involved in the bill, this was a matter which should be determined by the people and not by Congress. This conclusion on the part of the Committee was arrived at not because of a belief that Congress has not power to grant women the right to vote and hold office in the Territories, but on the ground that the women them-Territories, but on the ground that the women themselves, or the people of the Territories, have not generally applied to Congress for the privilege. The same Committee, however, reported, about a year ago, that the Constitution does not, as is claimed by some persons, accord to women the elective franchise. Notwithstanding the adverse report of the Committee on the bill above mentioned, Senator Pomeroy, who is always looking out for a chance to do something in the interest of temperance and of woman suffrage, had the bill placed upon the calendar in the hope that at least a pretty thorough discussion of the subject can be forced before the expiration of this Congress.

THE STORY OF BEAVER LAKE.

Mr. Farnsworth submitted a conference report on a bill to relinquish to the State of Indiana all title of the United States to the bed of Beaver Lake. The two Houses disagreed about this bill last session, and sent it to a Conference Commitjee, which falled to report before the fluxl adjournment. After a dry discussion in which a number of Western members told what they knew about "Riparian Rights" and "Meandering Surveys," the report was agreed to. The dispute about the title to the bed of the lake has a somewhat curious history. Several years ago a com-pany of enterprising men bought the lands bordering on the lake, and then, by digging ditenes at considerable expense, they drained the whole body of water into a neighboring stream, and thus obtained 15,000 acres of good farming land, upon which there are now houses, fences, orchards, and other improvements. Certain speculators claimed that the land belonged to the United States, and they covered it with agricultural college scrip and precimption claims. The State also set up a claim to ownership of the tract as swamp lands. The bill leaves the parties in possession to settle their title with the State, an arrangement with which they are satisfied.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs were pre-vented to-day, by want of time, from reporting the bill laims. A variety of claims of the United States against Venezuela, some of them very old, were by a treaty ratified in 1867, referred to a trbunal of arbitration which sat at Carracas and closed its labors in August, 1868. Claims amounting to \$4,823,273 31 were presented, of covering one-balf the awards, but when the first installment of the awards fell due Venezuela failed to pay them. Complaint was made that one Murray, who was variously represented as acting United States Minister, Secretary of Legation and attorney for the claimants, had acted lilegally, and Venezueln asked that the awards be set aside. This led to diplomatic correspondence and the taking of a great mass of testimony, which the Committee has examined. They think that while there may have been irregularities, there is not sufficient ground to set aside the awards, and the bill reported authorizes the President to take any measures that he may deem expedient, not amounting to cause of war, to enforce their payment.

The House bill providing for the exchange of registered bonds for coupon bonds was taken up in the Senate during the merning hour, to-day, and debated until 1 o'clock. The two objections urged against it by Senator ant were: First, that it would increase the value of all registered bonds from on one-half of one per cent, and he did not believe that Congress ought to legislate to change the market value of its securities; and, second, that the bill proposed to give too much responsibility to the Registrar of the Treasury, an officer who gave no band for the honest performance of his duty. The exchange was to be made through him, and he was to have the custody of the bonds while the exchange was making. Sendor Sher man answered both these objections, the first by saying that it was the duty of Congress to legislate to make our bonds more valuable, and the second by showing that the damer of loss to the Government was very small. As a disposition was evinced to debate the bill, it went

Gen. Cowan, acting Secretary of the Interior, wants Congress to appropriate \$284,149 to finish paying for the property in the two squares lying north and south of the East Capitol Park. Last session, Congress appropriated \$400,000 to buy this property, for the purpose of adding it to the Capitol grounds. An appraisement was made up under the direction of the Supreme Court of the District, and the value of the ground and the buildings upon it was determined to be \$681,878. The Secretary determined to use a little discretionary authority, and he bought the north square and as many of the lots in the south one as north square and as many of the lots in the sooth one as he had the money to pay for, expending very nearly the whole \$400,000. He now wants, beside an appropriation for the deficiency, authority to seit the buildings at auction and use the proceeds to pay costs of appraisement, advertising, extra clerk hire, &c. The greater part of the two squares is covered with brick buildings of considerable ace and be great value. Among them are two small hotels, a few stores, and a number of private dwellings and boarding houses.

THE DEFICIENCY BILL PASSED BY THE HOUSE. The Deficiency bill fluxlly passed the House to-day, after further debate on the appropriation for the Wash ington Board of Public Works. Two amendments, providing for a more satisfactory measurement and compu-tation of the work done around the Government property, were voted down. The House appeared so willing to take the estimates of the Board with the indorsement to taxe the estimates of the Board with the Indorsement of Garfield's Committee, that it was a little strange that so many members of the District Government thought it necessary to remain in the lobby until they saw the bill safely through. The only amendment adopted was provise forbidding the Board to make any further improvements on account of the Government, unless appropriations to pay the expense were previously made.

NOMINATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS. [GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.]

President sent the following nominations to the

frmed the following pominations: firmed the following nominations:

James H. Burdick, Marshal for Dakota Territory; William Praud, Attorney for Dakota; John Hall. Marshal for the Western District of Passeyfernia; Lethard H. Wakeneld, Postmaster at Portland, Oregon H. H. Weils, Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Channey N. Notewear, ceiner of the Branch Mint at Carson City, Revada.

A FATAL LOCOMOTIVE EXPLOSION.

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Dec. 19 .- About 5 this norming, the switch-engine Rover, on the Louisville, New-Albany, and Chicago Railroad, exploded while standing at Fifth and Union-sts. Only two persons were on the engine, David McNary, the engineer, and a youth named Kilgore. The engineer was found dead about 50 eet from the engine, and Kilgore was blown some dis tance and badly injured, but will probably recover. tance and badly injured, but ware completely rid-houses on either side of the street were completely rid-died. Numerous hair-breadth escapes occurred, the most prominent being those of Mr. McGilburg and wife, living on the corner opposite the explosion. The win-dows and doors were blown to fragments; a large piece

THE LOUISIANA CASE.

THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON-AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT-WHAT THE COMMITTEE ASK - THE PRESIDENT'S OPINION IN THE MATTER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- This afternoon the Louisiana Citizens' Committee, in accordance with a previous arrangement through Attorney-General Wilhams, had an interview with President Grant in his business office at the Executive Mansion. The Committee having been introduced to the President by Attorney-General Williams, Judge Campbell explained the purpose of their coming to Washington, and gave a brief account of the condition of affairs in Louisiana, in consequence of which commerce was seriously affected and trade generally so injured that the people are dismayed. This unfavorable condition of affairs not only injured that State, but other States having close business rela-

tions with Louisiana. As there was no prospect of a just and satisfactory olution of the present trouble by means of the agency now at work, the people, through the Committee, asked that in this exigency Associate Judge Bradley of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Judge Woods of the Circuit Court of the United States, may take charge of the judicial Administration of the Circuit Court

sitting in New-Orleans. the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, he was twice requested by the Chief Magistrate to perform such duty, in order that the force, power, and influence of the Court should be felt and respected; and he also went there twice at his own instance. He did not know of a more serious condition of affairs than that which now existed in Louisiana, and could see no relief except in the manner now suggested, the Judge whom he mentioned having greater power and independence than the Judge who now presided in the Circuit Court.

The course he had indicated promised a solution of the

difficulties so far as the judicial question was concerned. In the second place, the President of the United States, living 1,200 miles distant from New-Orleans, could not be expected to have a knowledge of all the facts. What the people of Louisiana wanted, what the President wanted, and what all good men desired, was the right of this matter, about which there were conflicting state ments and criminating remarks.

The people of that State, as represented by the Com send to New-Oriens three independent, impartial, learned, and just men to make a full inquiry into all the facts, to take testimony, and thoroughly explore the situation. They desired that all the facts be reported to the President. He repeated that what they wanted was a clear, exact, truthfut, honest investigation into all the matters involved, and they also asked that the President summit their memorial to Congress, together with the result of the investigation made in the manner indicated.

cated.

This memorial contained the signatures of many of the wealthiest and best men to be found in Louisiana, and who have the largest stake in society. His apprehension was that things have gone beyond either local or State power; but in advance of any appeal to Congress they asked the President to make a candid examination of their condition through three of the best men of the land, and to submit the matter to Congress for determination if this should become necessary, but it may not mination if this should become necessary, but it may not

mination if this should become necessary, but it may not be so.

President Grant, in reply, said he supposed it was competent for the Supreme Court to designate any one of its members to proceed to Louisiana, but he did not think it would be quite proper for him to make the request of them; Congress had, power to investigate the facts in the case presented. But he did not propose to interfere with the local affairs of that State by putting one set of officers or another in power, although numerous telegrams, letters, and papers say he had done so.

No action was taken by the Administration until the decree of the United States Court was attempted to be set asid or resisted by the last Governor of the State. Then the United States Marshal was simply instructed to see that the decree of the Federal Court was sustained; and the military lorges were to be used if necessary to support the Federal authority. He would not feel at liberty to make a request that Judge Bradey go to New-Orleans, particularly as he is wanted here while the Court is in resident substants. feel at interty to make a request that Judge Bradley go to New-Orleans, particularly as he is wanted here while the Court is in session; although if the Court should make the request it would meet with his approbation. Judge Campbell said there was no authority under the Constitution and laws of the United States for a Federal Court to interfere with the affairs of a State, as it had in Louislana; and he briefly alluded to the decree of the Court and its effect in scating and unscaling persons constant to office.

Court and its effect in scating and unscaling persons elected to office.

The President, during a collequy with Judge Campbell, said his understanding of the subject was that the Court had merely decided who were the legal canvassers, and even it, as stated in the case, the Court exceeded its authority, its decision will have to be respected until the decision shall be set aside by a Superior Court. It would be dangerous for the President to set the precedent of interfering with the decisions of Courts.

Judge Campbell remarked that if Judge Carter, Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, should undertake to count the votes for President and Vice-President, and dealer who were elected to these offices, with the power of the Government to support him, the act world be no more legal than the course parsued in Leuisiana, under the ophnon of the Court, supported by the Pederal Power. The Committee did not ask the President to decide anything. They only asked him to investigate the matter, and to communicate to Congress the report of the three honest men cate to Congress the report of the three honest men selected by him for the purpose.

The President said he could not, without the action of

selected by him for the purpose.

The President said he could not, without the action of Congress, employ and compensate such nen. Judge Campbell said there was so much parietism involved the gentlemen would trust to Congress for compensation. The President repeated that without the authority of Congress such a committee could not administer oaths or compel the attendance of witnesses.

Judge Campbell said the Committee could communicate with those acquainted with all the circumstances, and learning the lacts report the truth. What they wanted was responsible inquiry by men whom everybody knew would tell the truth.

The President repeated that such a Committee should have authority by law to send for persons and papers, and examine witnesses on oath.

Judge Campbell asked whether the President would receive from the Committee the law and the facts in the case. They did not wish to go outside of them.

The President replied they would be examined by the Attorney-General, if it was thougst proper to do so.

The Committee will hold another meeting to-morrow morning. The probable programme is that a sub-Committee of five members will remain here in charge of the subject, and that the remainder of the Committee will visit the great centers of trade where they have business relations.

THE RIVAL ALABAMA LEGISLATURES. MONTGOMERY, Dec. 19 .- The Senate yester-

day organized permanently and elected Democratic officers. In the House the Republicans would not permit the journal to be read. They insisted on adjourning mmediately after the roll-call, and carried their point. They have not abandoned their Court-house organiza ion, but meet there each morning and legislate until 10 o'clock, and then go to the Capitol and assemble in tem porary organization with the Democrats. The latter eet only in the temporary organization marked out in the Attorney-General's proposition. It is feared that the Republicans contemplate withdrawing from the temporary organization and reestablishing a separate

ENFORCING THE SHIPPING ACT AT SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 19 .- The office of the United States Shipping! Commission is still under the protection of the city police force against violence on the part of the sailor boarding-house keepers. Rictous demonstrations are made daily, but the ships continue to take their crews through the United States Commissioners' office. It is generally believed that the old "ring" of boarding-house masters will be completely broken up.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

A banquet was given last evening by theThe Boston Board of Aldermen has accepted to Legislative ante empowering the city to issue fire books to the mount of \$20,000,000.

... The machine shops of the Evansville, Terre

Baute and Crawfordsville Railroad, in Terre Haute, were destrayed by

tre last evening. Loss shout \$20,000.

... The stockholders of the Equitable Insurance

Company held a meeting resterday in Providence and voted to continue

instincts, the capital being made up to \$700,000 by subscriptions.

basics, the capital oning made up as a construction of the capital oning made up as questions of the capital oning the c ... A fire at Clarksville, Tonn., Wednesday night, leatroyed three stores and the warehouse of Seat, Granek Co., in which sere attend 11,000 barbles of wheat; the logs is \$26,000. A keg of purpowder in one of the stores exploded and injured several persons.

... The pattern-shop, large machine-shop, and office of Carter Alice & Co., at Tamacon, Penn, were harned Wednesday night. The lass is \$450,000; per fer research. Over 100 mes are known out of cample ment. The face is supposed to be the work of an

the people and their interests.

In the case of the United States against Gen.
Stantos, inte Collector of Internal Revenue, Fifth Maryland Disfor embezuling \$19,000 of the Covernment funds, which has been
rial in the United States District Court at Haltimore for the past
tags, the jury posterialy rendered a vendet of not gaility.

GOULD'S COMPROMISE.

ALL THE ERIE SUITS AGAINST HIM WITH-DRAWN.

POSSIBLY A GIGANTIC STOCK OPERATION-THE EX-PRESIDENT RESTORES PROPERTY WORTH NINE MILLIONS AT THE MAXIMUM-ONE OF THE VICTORIES OF PEACE.

THE TRIBUNE'S announcement, yesterday morning, of Jay Gould's proposition to compromise the various suits brought against him in behalf of the Eric Railway Company by the payment fof \$9,000,000 created the most intense excitement in Wall-st. The common stock, which had closed at 523 to 53 on Wednesday evening, opened very actively yesterday at 531, and sold up to 57;, with enormous transactions. The preferred stock, usually quiet, advanced from 75 to 78. The Eric settlement was the subject of general conversation, and the results of the meeting of the Board of Directors at the Grand Opera-House were anxiously awaited on the street. Many theories were advanced as to the cause of the alleged compromise; those who were not very friendly to the present Eric administration intimating that it was a prearranged matter for the purpose of influencing the stock market and enriching Jay Gould and the Eric directors, all of whom had gone "long" of the stock at low figures before making known the result of their conference.

It was represented by those who professed to know a great deal about the matter that Jay Gould had been allowed to purchase about 200,000 shares of Eric Railway stock, both in this market and in London, on which he expected to make a handsome profit by the advance in value, when the results of the compromise were anconneed. This transaction was said to be in accordance with Gould's course at the revolution at the Grand Opera House, when he was largely "long" of the stock, and profited greatly by his own downfall and removal from the Erie management. The history of the settlement is briefly as follows:

PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. Soon after Gould's arrest on the affidavit of Henry N. ith and on evidence obtained from the books of Smith, Gould, Martin & Co., the ex-President of Eric either feared the results of the trial or thought that it would be more politic to conciliate the present administration of Erie, or to combine with members of it for purposes of nutual profit. Accordingly, after having reaped the rich fruits of the "North-West" harvest, overtures made looking to a reconciliation between Gould and the Watson administration. Numerous interviews were had between the former and the principal members of the latter, the whole culminating in Gould's proposition to refund the money and property alleged to have been fraudulently abstracted by him from the custody of the Company. This amounted to about \$2,036,000.

The terms of the proposition were such as to excite the interest of those whom he consulted, and President Watson and S. L. M. B. rlow, counsel and director, agreed that the matter should be referred to the Special Committee having Gould's indebtedness under consideration. This Committee, consisting of President Watson, William D. Duncau, William R. Travers, S. D. Babcock and others, thought so favorably of it that they requested the President to call a special meeting of the full Board of Directors to act upon the matter. This was accordingly done, and notices were sent to the members for a special meet ing yesterday morning.

They met at about 10 a. m., in their rooms at the Grand Opera House, and remained in secret session for several hours. Among the directors present were the President, Peter H. Watson, ex-Gov. E. D. Morgan, S. D. Babcock, S. L. M. Barlow, Homer Ramsdell, John J. Cisco, William Butler Duncan, Charles S. Day, William R. Travers, Gen. Lansing, and Messrs. Schuschardt and Shippen. At the close of the meeting it was ascertained that the only business before the board was the consideration of Jay Gould's proposition to settle. This proposition was in the shape of the following letter, from Gould to President Watson:

JAY GOULD'S FLEA FOR PEACE.

DEAR SIR: Referring to my recent conversation with you on the subject of the claims of the Eric Railway upon me, I answer that there is no longer any sufficient reason why an adjustment of all open questions satisfactory and honorable to all parties should not now be made. I have at all times, since my resignation as Precident of the Eric Company, been prepared to make conveyance to it of properties belonging to the Company to which I never i made any claim. In addition to those, I have held in my name both real and personal properties which if never i made any claim. In addition to those, I have held in my name both real and personal properties in the street of the Eric Company, some of which were forced upon me to meet real exigencles in the affairs of the Eric Company during my administration, and others of which I purchased rather with the expectation of benefiting the Company through business to accrue to the road than from any other motive.

Upon your construction of my accounts with the Company, I am charged with all the moneys thus expended, and that I should be credited with their value.

Another question of even more importance grows out of the state in which I was compelled to keep my accounts with the Company at the time of my withdrawal from the Presidency. I could then have explained many protters which many are involved in doubt. One account

a serious embarrassment. But I am wanting interprete to meet you in a spirit that shall leave no question as to my motives or intentions.

Take your own statement and your claim, \$9,080,000, the various pieces of real estate in New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and the stocks and bonds which I mentioned in my last conversation with you, I believe you will consider worth more to the Eris Company than the total sum claimed; some of those properties were purchased with my own means, and the Company has no claim upon them, but they are necessary for its use. I now propose to convey all these properties, previously mentioned, and will, in addition, convey the Grand Opera House and all adjacent properties owned by Mr. Pisk and myself, the same to be freed by me from all mortgages, to you, on receiving a full discnarge from the Company.

I do this for the sake of peace, because any litigation of such questions is more annoying than the loss of the money involved, and because I am sincerely auxious for the success of the Eric Company, in which I have a large pecuniary interest.

Picase let me know as speedily as possible whether this proposition is favorably entertained by you. Yours, respectually.

Aly GOULD.

Peter H. Watson, President Eric Railway.

Peter H. Watson, President Eric Railway.

PRESIDENT WATSON'S REPLY. To this letter President Watson returned the following

Office of the Eric Railway Compant, Say Gould Dear Sir: I have your favor of this date, the substance of which I will at once submit to the special Committee of our Board having the claims against you in charge. I cannot say what this action will be, but I am satisfied with the explanations you have made, and will cheerfully recommend a settlement on the general terms suggested by you, as I believe that the best interests of the Eric Company will be thereby served, and that the properties in question are fully equivalent in value to the Company-and of its claims against you of every character. I will call our Committee together to-morrow and communicate their action to you, not daubting that they will consider your offer, as I do, a fair one under the circumstances, and one which from a business point of view, should be accepted in the interests of the stockholders of the Eric Company. Yours, respectfully. Peter H. Watson, President. OFFICE OF THE ERIE RAILWAY COMPANY, }

NINE MILLIONS, PAR, REPUNDED. The result of the meeting was detailed in the following

tatement, which had been prepared for publication: The Special Committee, consisting of the President (Mr. Watson), Gov. Morgan, W. B. Dunean, W. R. Travers, and S. D. Babcock, to whom the subject of all claims of the Eric Railway Company against Jay Gould was referred a number of months ago, made a report to the Eric Board of Directors, recommending th cceptance of the terms of agreement proposed by Mr.

The terms are the settlement of all claims of the Er Company, amounting to over \$0,000,000, by the immediate conveyance and transfer to the Company of real and personal property which, at the appraisal of the real properties and at the par values of the bonds and stocks. exceed the full value of the alleged claim. In the words of the Committee, "they believe the property agreed to to be transferred might judiciously be purchased by the Erie Company at the sum of \$9,000,000 in exchange for other property, and that it would, if sold for each, bring

The report of the Committee was accepted by the manimous vote of the Board, and the President was lirected to carry the settlement into effect.

In return for this transfer it is understood that Mr Gould was allowed to bid for and purchase about 200,000 shares of the Erie Railway stock at the lowest market igures, and he was to be consulted on occasions of importance in regard to the management of the road, and was to cast his influence in its favor and be freed from he embarrassing litigation which had been begun against

The property which Mr. Gould has transferred to the Company taken at its par value represents between

President Watson, S. L. M. Barlow, and other Eric Directors were closeted together at Mr. Barlow's office unti a late hour last evening, discussing the events of the day and the future programme. On leaving the private office Gould hurried through the ante-room, and encountering

the curious gaze of a number of spectators took a carriage with Mr. Shearman and rode home. MR. BARLOW'S VIEWS. S. L. M. Barlow, Director and Counsel or the Company, upon being questioned in regard to the special influence which had compelled Mr. Gould to refund, stated that he knew of nothing except the legitimate influence of the suits. The negotiations had been pending for some time, and had resulted favorably. Mr. Gould had transferred to the Company labout \$2,500,000 in stocks and bonds and the rest in real estate. The compromise, although accepted, had not yet been consummated, but the papers would probably be signed to-day. The result was

very satisfactory to all concerned. ERIE CAN LAY A THIRD RAIL A reporter sought an interview with Mr. Gould at the latter's office, the result being the following statement

by the ex-President of Erio:

"It is true that the difficulties existing between the Eric Railroad and myself are now of an end. It is also true that I have paid the Company the sum of \$9,000,000 for the purpose of effecting the settlement, and that sum has been held in abeyance, subject to their acceptance, for some time past. The great good resulting from the settlement will be—First: That the Eric Railroad can now lay the third rail that has been so much talked of, and that will place it in the position so long sought, that of being a narrow-gauge road. Second: It will emble it to make an ailiance with the Lake Shore Road, and remove the idea that has been entertained by some of making closer connection with the Atlantic and Great Western Road. The result of this will be that a rival system will be established that will prove a success over the Great Central system, and place Eric at the head of great railroads of America. The effect of the settlement will further bone-fit the road, as it will have the assistance of my experience, and already has placed Mr. Watson and myself in amicable relations. The news has been received abroad with evidence of the greatest satisfaction, and the credit of Eric has been recrewed ten-fold."

Mr. Gould concluded by stating that a condition of the by the ex-President of Eric:

Mr. Gould concluded by stating that a condition of the ttlement was that he should receive 200,000 shares of Erie stock; in other words, that he should have the first market bid for that number, with the privilege of buy-ing them in; this he had done already, and the shares were now in his possession; there was also an under-standing that he was to be consulted, and his opinion asked upon matters of importance pertaining to the business of the road.

RUMORS OF THE STREET. A TRIBUNE reporter called on Daniel Drew at his office in Exchange-place, for the purpose of obtaining his views regarding the settlement, but Mr. Drew was not in a communicative mood, simply saying that he had heard rumors of a settlement, and supposed there was a

settlement, but knew nothing about it.

It is stated that Mr. Gould will throw his influence in the North-West Railroad Company in favor of bringing its traffic over the Eric Railway when the third rail is laid. There is also said to be a very large "short" interest in Eric stock, and that Gould intends to twist the bears in Erle as he did their brethren in North-West.

In the United States Circuit Court, yesterday, in the case of Mrs. St. John agt. The Eric Railway Co., Judge Woodruff decided that preferred stock is entitled to priority only over common stock, and distalssed the bill

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY. DUTIES ON RAW MATERIALS-PROTECTION THE PILGRIMS OF LOURDES.

Paris, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1872. In the Assembly, to-day, M. Bonnet's motion against duties on raw materials was, after further de-bate, rejected, by a vote of 461 to 153.

"Urgency" was granted for a proposal to appropriate 200,000 frames for the relief of sufferers by the number tions in France.

The Mayor of Nantes has been dismissed from office for not giving sufficient protection to the polyrims of Lagrees. The motion introduced in the Assembly to in-quire into the responsibility of the Government for the

ges suffered by the pilgrims has consequently been FLOODS IN EUROPE. PARIS QUAYS UNDER WATER-THE CITY OF

GHENT FLOODED. Paris, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1872. The River Seine has overflowed its banks, and the water is spreading on both sides. In this city the quays are flooded, the stores near them are closed,

the quays are flooded, the stores near them are closed, and all traffic in that quarter is carried on by boats. Beyond Bercy, a suburb of Paris, on the right bank of the Scine, the houses in the vicinity of the river are standing in one vast lake of water.

BRUSSLIS, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1872.

Dispatches from Ghent report that the streams in that section of Belgium have risen above their embankments and the country is inundated. The City of Ghent is flooded, and in some of the streets the water is three feet deep.

SETTLEMENT OF A DISPUTE WITH COTTON MILL OPERATIVES-LABORERS IN A GAS MANU-FACTORY SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT. LONDON, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1872.

Important action was taken yesterday which ettles a long-standing dispute with the operatives in the cotton mills of Blackburn. At a meeting of the the cotton miles of Biackerin. At a meeting of the masters of the card-room hands a compromise was ef-fected whereby three-quarters of the advance in wages asked was conceded. Five men, who were employed in the Beckton gas works, have been convicted of threatening the man-arer with violence and sentenced each to a year's imment at hard labor.

GERMAN EMIGRATION TO AMERICA. SCHEME OF COLONIZATION-PROBABLE OPPO-SITION AMONG THE GREMANS TO THE EF-

FORTS TO OBSTRUCT EMIGRATION. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- A letter received to day by a Washington member of the German Coloniza-tion Society seems to indicate that the policy of the Prussian Government in preventing or discouraging emgration will meet with considerable opposition from the people themselves. Not even the recent orders to the anagers of railroads and ship-owners, to increase their managers of railroads and ship-owners, to increase their charge for transportation for persons leaving the country, deter great numbers of farmers and mechanics from making preparations to emigrate. The letter referred to set forth the plan of organization of the German-American Colonization Association, the object of which is to encourage systematic emigration to this country. The Association is to be composed endirely of farmers and mechanics who desire to emigrate, and who, by its constitution and by-laws, are required to have a capital of at least 500 thalers cach, and to be tess than 60 years of age. It organized with 256 members, elected its officers, and adopted rules and regulations for future operations. Circulars have been sent all over the Empire, and mechanics have been sent all over the Empire, and mechanics have been sent all over the Empire, and mechanics for the Society in all parts of Germany.

Persons not joining the Association, but living in the German Colonies or the United States, will be allowed to join the colonies which it is expected will follow each other in rapid succession. The increused cost of living without a corresponding advance in wages in Germany since the late war has caused much discoutent, and the movement is likely to be very popular. At a recent meeting of the Association, an Executive Committee was elected to canvass for colonists, and some representatives of this committee are expected in this country before long, to arrange for the accommodation of the first colony, which will arrive in the Spring. The Prussian Government is and to be watching the movement with great interest, feeling that its future power as a nation depends largely on being able to keep its ablebodied men at home. If it interferes to prevent the departure of the coloniats, they will attempt to bring the matter to the attention of the United States Government. charge for transportation for persons leaving the coun-

FOREIGN NOTES.

The Khedive has concluded a loan of 12,500,000 with the Bank of Constantinople. Mr. Robert Bowles has been released from Newgate Prison, having secured ball in the sum of \$20,000. The anniversary of the closing of the gates

of Londonderry passed off on Wednesday without dis-The ship Matchless of Boston, Mass., has been wrecked off the coast of Northumberland County, England. All on board were lost.

The Paris Journal des Débats says the French Government has no intention of sending men-of-war to Hayti to support the demands of French cities as

The London Times's "Assizes column" of yesterday morning contains six verdicts of murder, with the seutences of death passed upon the culprits. The London Times yesterday eulogized Mr.

The latest official advices from Mexico confirm the news of the press dispatches as to the signs of disorder and even of revolution that are showing them-selves in several parts of the republic. At Chibunhua especially serious disturbances are feared, some demon-strations having already been made against the Govern-ment of the State.

PROF. TYNDALL ON LIGHT.

SECOND LECTURE OF THE COURSE. METHOD OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS AND ITS RELATIONS TO MENTAL PROCESSES-

The hall of the Cooper Union was packed, if possible, more closely last night than at Prof. Tyndail's first lecture. Although seats were purchased for the urse, they did not always contain the same occupants. and it was noteworthy that in a majority of cases where gentleman was absent from the seat he had filled on Monday night, his place was occupied by a lady instead of another of his own sex. So that it resulted that the number of ladies was largely increased. The interest of the audience was further indicated by a remarkable punctuality. It was possible-and they who most frequent lectures know how rarely this is the case-to hear all the opening words of the speaker, uninterrupted by new-comers tramping down the aisles, whis pering to ushers, and crowding into scats. Prof. Tyn dall commenced with a rapidity, and an air of having much to do in a short time, that made it necessary for a while to follow him closely; but, warming with his subject, especially when sounding the praises of his countryman, Dr. Young, he rose more nearly to a strain of eloquence than his lectures here have hitherto attained, and the audience responded with tribute of hearty applause. exhibitions were more entertaining than on the opening night, perhaps as a reward for the patience and close attention given to the rather long prelude of history and disquisition. The interest does not in the least diminish as the 90 minutes' draw to a conclusion. "Has be stopped! I thought be was n't near through. How abrupt!" Such were exclamations heard

Twist, wanted " More," THE LECTURE.

We might vary and extend our experiments on light udefinitely, and they certainly would prove us to possess a wonderful mastery over the phenomens. But the vesture of the agent only would thus be seen, not the agent itself. The human mind, however, is so constituted never reat satisfied with this outward view of them Brightness and freshness take possession of the mind when it is crossed by the light of principles, which show the facts of nature to be organically connected.

as the lecturer bowed adien to people who, like Oliver

Let us, then, inquire what this thing is that we have been generating, reflecting, refracting, and analyzing. mental philosopher is two-fold. He lives, in his voca-tion, a life of the senses, using his hands, eyes, and ears In his experiments; but such a question as that now be fore us carries him beyond the margin of the senses. He cannot consider, much less answer, the question, " What is light t" without transporting himself to a world which underlies the sensible one, and out of which, in accordance with rigid law, all optical phenomena spring. To realize this subsensible world, if I may use the term, the mind must possess a certain pictorial power. It has to visualize the invisible. It must be able to form definite mages of the things which that subsensible world contains; and to say that, if such or such a state of things exist in that world, then the phenomena which appear in ours must, of necessity, grow out of this state of things. If the picture be correct, the phenomena are accounted for; a physical theory has been enunciated which unites and explains them all.

This conception of physical theory implies, as you ceive, the exercise of the imagination. Do not be afraid of this word, which seems to render so many respectable people, both in the ranks of science and out of them, unmfortable. That men in the ranks of science show feel thus is, I think, a proof that they have suffered themselves to be carried away by the popular definition of a great faculty instead of observing its operation in their own minds. If we are to get anything done in physical science, we must invoke this faculty of imag nation. Without it we cannot take a step beyond the the edge of this. But, in speaking of Imagination, I do not mean that riotous power which those good and timid people appear to be alone acquainted with, but a wellrdered and disciplined power whose sole function is to form the conceptions which the intellect imperatively demands. Imagination thus exercised never really sevfrom which all its pictures are drawn; and the magic of its art consists, not in creating things anew, but in so changing the magnitude, position, and other relations of sensible things, as to render them fit for the require ments of the intellect in the subsensible world.

PROCESSES OF SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT. One of my objects in these lectures is to show you by what processes, or in what way, the scientific mind at-tains the deepest knowledge it is capable of attaining, which is a knowledge of the invisible sources of phenom ena. I will take, as an libratration of case of Newton. Before he began to deal with light, he was intimately acquainted with the laws of elastic co lision, which all of you have seen more or less perfectly illustrated on a billiard-table. As regards the collision of sensible masses, Newton knew the angle of incidence to be equal to the angle of reflection, and he also knew that experiment, as shown in our last lecture, had established the same law with regard to light. He thus found in his previous knowledge the material for theoretic images. He had only to change the magnitude of conceptions already in his mind to arrive at the Emission Theory of Light. He supposed light to consist of elastic particles of inconceivable minuteness shot out with inconceivable irapidity by luminous bodies. Such particles impinging upon smooth surfaces were reflected in accordance with the ordinary law of elastic collision. The fact of optical reflection certainly occurred as if light consisted of clastic particles, and this was Newton's sole justification for infroducing them.

But this is not all. In another important particular

also, Newton's conceptions regarding the nature of light were influenced by his previous knowledge. He had been working at the phenomenaloffgravitation, and had made his mind at home amid the operations of this universal power. Perhaps that mighty mind at this time was too freshly and too deeply imbued with these notions to enable it to form an unfettered judgment regarding the nature of light. Be that as it may, Newton saw in refraction the action of an attractive force exerteout with the most severe consistency. Dropping vertically downward toward the earth's surface, motion of a body is accelerated as it approaches the earth. Dropping in the same manner downward on a horizontal surface, say of glass or water, the velocity of the light particles, when they come close to the surface, was, according to Newton, also accelerated. Approaching such a surface obtiquely, he supposed the particles, when close to it, to be drawn down upon it, exactly as a projectile is drawn by gravity to the surface of the earth. This deflection by an attractive force exerted upon the particles of tight, was, according to Newton, refraction. Finally, it was supposed that differences of color might be due to differences in the sizes of the particles; a big particle, by its impact against the netina, producing one color, and a small pericie a dif-ferent one. This was the physical the of light enunciated and defended by Newton; and you will observe that it simply consists in the transference of conceptions born in the world of the senses to a sub-sensible world.

THE PATH PROM PACT TO PRINCIPLE

But though the region of physical theory lies thus beaind the world of senses, the verifications of theory hind the world of senses, the verifications of theory occur in that world. Laying the theoretic conception at the root of matters, we determine by rigid deduction what are the phenomena which must of necessity grow out of this root. If the phenomena thus deduced agree with those of the actual world, it is a presumption in favor of the theory. If as new classes of phenomena arise they also are found to harmonize with theoretic deduction, the presumption becomes still stronger. If, finally, the theory confers prophetic vision upon the investigator, enabling him to predict the existence of phenomena which have never yet been seen, and if those predictions be found on trial to be rigidly correct, the persuanton of the truth of the theory becomes overpowering. Thus working backward from a limited number of phenomena, genius, by its own expansive force, reaches a conception which covers all the phenomena. There is, no more wonderful performance of the intellect than this. And we can reader no account of it. Like the scripkural sift of the Spirit, no man can tell whence it comesh. The passage from fact to principle is sometimes slow, sometimes rapid, and at all times a source of intellectual joy. When rapid, the pleasure is concentrated, and becomes a kind of cestasy or intexication. To any one who has experienced this pleasure, even in a moderate degree, the action of Archimedes when he quitted the bath, and ran naked, crying "Eureka!" through the surcets of Syracues, becomes perfocily intelligible.

How, then, did it fare with the theory of Newton, when the deductions from it were brought face to face with natural phenomena? To the mind's eye, Newton's classic particles present themselves like particles of sensible magnitude. The same reasoning applies to footh; the same experimental checks axis." occur in that world. Laying the theoretic conception at Greeley, saying he died in honor; the people of the United States felt that he was a most genuine American.